Shortage of Onion

†*49. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was acute shortage of onion in the month of October in the country which necessitated import of onion;

(b) the names of the countries where from Government imported onion alongwith the value of onion imported, country-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the shortage of onion and the reasons for not overcoming the situation in time?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Although the total estimated production of onion in the country in 2005 is 59.42 lakh metric tonnes which is 4% more than the production in the previous year, arrival in the major wholesale markets in the country in October, 2005 was about 10% less than in October, 2004. This was due to erratic and excessive rainfall particularly in major onion growing States of Maharashtra and Gujarat which adversely affected the kharif onion crop significantly in those States. The overall kharif production has been less by 6.8% in the country as compared to previous year although the area under kharif is more by 3.9% than the previous year. The kharif crop was also delayed in some States because of the erratic rainfall pattern. The Government decided to import onion in view of the sudden spurt in prices in 3rd week of October. No import was, however, made by the Government as the prices soon stabilized and the market arrivals improved.

Pulse production

*50. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Green Revolution which made India self-sufficient in wheat and rice had ignored pulses; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.